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CIA director at Principia

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Admiral Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, spoke to a near capacity crowd in Cox Auditorium on the Principia College campus Feb. 5.

After directing remarks to the problems the college students would be confronting upon their graduation, Admiral Turner spoke at length about the ethical problems of intelligence gathering, and of the many decisions that have to be made concerning the risks to be taken and the relative value of the information to be gained for American security as a result of those risks. These decisions are all the more weighty because there are also risks in not having information, he said.

While agreeing that it was proper that the intelligence community have an adversary relationship with the media, Turner stated that he felt the adversary nature of this relationship had sharpened since Watergate.

There are also today eight committees on Capitol Hill to which the CIA must regularly

report, though the President has recently requested that the number be reduced to two, thus insuring the oversight function of Congress while not so burdening the CIA that it could not adequately perform its functions.

Asked to compare the CIA to Soviet intelligence, Turner opined that the Russians had more spies, and were willing to engage in conduct that the United States would regard as unethical; nonetheless, our gadgetry and our abilities at analysis made our intelligence system superior.

He regards analysis of information as vital, and feels that a free society, in which the citizens are educated to weigh evidence openly, tends to excel in evaluation of data, while a society in which suspicion is present, and people guard their thoughts and views out of fear, tends to be one in which depth of analysis is not nearly so easy.

While answering questions as fully as possible, Turner declined to answer many, not only on the grounds of their sensitivity but because an intelligence official has to devote himself to gathering of information and its

analysis, leaving judgments made on that material to legislators and the executive branch of the federal government.

Turner ended his talk by turning toward the future and the delicate situation the industrial economies find themselves in today, with a combination of heavy dependence on oil, a concentration of oil supplies in the Middle East, and a coming decline in oil production.

Any perturbation in the political situation of any major oil producer will inevitably send shock waves throughout the western world and Japan. Soon Russia, too, will find that its need for oil is exceeding its own production. We are entering an era of sensitive political interdependence, according to the CIA's top man.

Following his remarks, Turner was handed a wrapped gift. He remarked that had it come to his office, it would have been x-rayed before being opened, but he supposed it would be safe.

It turned out to be a Principia College sweatshirt.